

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A method of improving the security of computer communications over a connecting network comprising the steps carried out before a data packet enters the connecting network from a user domain of:

- a) tagging the data packet from a user domain with a security level marking, and
- b) appending the tagged data packet with a string formed from a check-sum made over the data packet and security level marking tag to form a datagram.

Claim 2. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising the further steps, carried out as the datagram attempts to enter a second user domain, of:

- c) verifying the string in the received datagram matches a string calculated over the received data packet and security level marking tag, and

d) verifying the received security level marking tag matches the security level of the second user domain.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, comprising the further step of encrypting each datagram before entry into the wide area network.

Claim 4. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein datagrams from more than one user domain are encrypted by the same cryptograph.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~, Claim 4, wherein the check-sum is a one-way hash function.

Claim 6. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the one-way hash function is SHA-1.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~, Claim 6, further comprising the step of recording any mismatch of check-sum or security level marking tag.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A domain separator for improving the security of computer communications over a connecting network arranged to carry out the method according to ~~any preceding claim~~. Claim 7.

Claim 9. (Original) A domain separator as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the user domain security level marking is set by a physical switch on the device.

Claim 10. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the check-sum is a one-way hash function.

Claim 11. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the one-way hash function is SHA-1.

Claim 12. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising the step of recording any mismatch of check-sum or security level marking tag.

Claim 13. (New) A domain separator for improving the security of computer communications over a connecting network arranged to carry out the method according to Claim 12.

Claim 14. (New) A domain separator as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the user domain security level marking is set by a physical switch on the device.

Claim 15. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising the step of recording any mismatch of check-sum or security level marking tag.

Claim 16. (New) A domain separator for improving the security of computer communications over a connecting network arranged to carry out the method according to Claim 15.

Claim 17. (New) A domain separator as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the user domain security level marking is set by a physical switch on the device.